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de Wied, accompanying the copy of Dr. Rüppell's work on the Fauna of Abyssinia, announced at last meeting.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the Publication Committee be authorized to present to the Prince de Wied, Part 2, Vol. VIII., First Series, and Parts 1, 2 and 3, New Series, of the Journal of the Academy.

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August 21st.

DR. BRIDGES in the Chair.

The following letter from Miss M. H. Morris, of Germantown, dated July 21st, 1849, was read by the Corresponding Secretary.

"I have delayed proposing a name for the *Cecidomyia*, that feeds in the culm of the wheat, because I wished my communication to be accompanied by a complete series of specimens from the egg to the perfect fly; but since 1843, it has not appeared in this neighborhood in sufficient numbers for me to trace it through its several changes: I am therefore obliged to offer the name of *C. culmicola*, as an appropriate one, with a brief history of its habits, as I have seen it, and trust I may be more fortunate in future in procuring specimens for examination and description.

The insect deposits its eggs early in June, on the grain, in or over the germ, while the grain is in the soft or milky state. The eggs remain unhatched until the grain germinates, but when the plant has grown about three or four inches, the worm may be seen, with the aid of a strong magnifying glass, feeding above the top joint, in the centre of the culm, where it remains until it has arrived at maturity. Should this occur before the culm has become hard, the worm eats its way through the joints, inside of the straw, and makes its escape at the root, ascends the straw on the outside, where it attaches itself firmly, and awaits its change; the outer skin becomes the puparium. In the pupa, or flax-seed state, it closely resembles the *C. destructor*, and has heretofore been mistaken for that species.

Should the culm of the wheat become prematurely hard before the worm has finished feeding, as is often the case, the insect will remain imprisoned for life, passing through its changes inside the straw, and there perish without the power to escape, unless some accidental passage be made for it. I have liberated hundreds with my pen knife, and thousands make their escape after the grain has been reaped and carried into the barn.

When the insect is thus unnaturally retarded, the time of its perfect development is uncertain; and I have found them on the straw, and in spiders, webs, in and near a barn, from June until September. This destructive insect may therefore be carried in the straw from one country to another, as well as in the grain."

Letters were also read:

From the Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences, of Brussels, accompanying the donation of the numbers of the Bulletin of that Society, announced this evening, and soliciting an exchange of publications, which was accordingly ordered.

From M. Lacordaire, dated Liege, April 20, 1849, returning acknowledgments for his election as a Corresponding Member, announcing the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy presented to him

in return for a copy of his late work, in two volumes, "Monographie des Phytophages," and also proposing an exchange of Coleoptera of North America for those of Europe.

From M. Fischer de Waldheim, dated Moscow, 1st May, 1849, acknowledging the reception of his notice of election as a Correspondent.

Mr. Cassin called the attention of the Society to the specimen of *Anas Rafflesii*, King, (Jard. and Selby, Ill. Orn. n. s., pl. 23,) presented this evening by E. Pilaté, M. D., of Opelousas, La. This, Mr. C. stated, is the first instance of the capture of this species within the limits of the United States, to the fauna of which it is an addition of the highest interest.

Dr. Pilaté, who obtained the present specimen in the neighborhood of his residence, represents it as the only one which has come under his observation. To this gentleman, who is ardently devoted to the study of Ornithology, the Academy is highly indebted for this valuable specimen.

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August 28th.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

The Committee to which was referred the paper of Dr. Savage, on the Driver Ants of West Africa, reported in favor of its publication in the Proceedings of the Academy, with some additional observations by the Committee, suggested by the specimens sent by Dr. Savage with the paper.

*The Driver Ants of Western Africa.*

By THOMAS S. SAVAGE, M. D.

These remarkable and interesting insects have been, till quite recently, without their place in our systems of Natural History. Occasional, but very imperfect notices have been given from time to time of Smeathman and Afzelius to the present, of one or two annoying features in their economy; but till now, no regular description either of their entomological character or habits.

In 1845, the author of this article, after a series of observations, sent, in compliance with a promise, a detailed account of their habits, with numerous specimens, to J. O. Westwood, Esq., Secretary of the Entomological Society of London.\*

Mr. W. dissected with that minuteness and accuracy for which he is so remarkable, individuals of the three classes into which they had been divided, and published the results with illustrations, supplementary to the account, in the Transactions of the Society.

The insect in its perfect state had not then been discovered. Neuters with larvæ and pupæ only were sent. The former only (neuters), it seems, arrived in a state for examination. This is the more to be regretted, since, soon after sending his account to London, the author left the locality for his health, without the prospect of returning.

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\* See Vol. 5, First Part, Transactions of London Entomological Society, for remarks of Mr. W., and the account of the habits of the insects, more in detail.